

## Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Hearings and Engagement Committee will be held on:

**Date:** Wednesday 4 December 2024  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Meeting Room:** Council Chamber  
**Venue:** Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Lance Vervoort  
Chief Executive

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## Regulatory and Hearings Committee

### *Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa*

### OPEN AGENDA

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#### Membership

**Chairperson** Cr Mark Donovan  
*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Ewan Wilson  
*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members**

Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary	Cr Anna Casey-Cox
Cr Maxine van Oosten	Cr Maria Huata
Cr Moko Tauariki	Cr Geoff Taylor
Cr Louise Hutt	Cr Andrew Bydder

**Meeting frequency** As required

**Quorum** Three members (for matters relating to those functions in paragraph 3 and 4 of the TOR or a majority of members (including vacancies) for all other functions).

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Amy Viggers  
*Mana Whakahaere*  
Governance Lead

**25 November 2024**

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## **Purpose**

1. To conduct fair and effective hearings and make determinations on a range of the Council's quasi-judicial functions under legislation and other matters as referred to the Committee.
2. To convene and coordinate advisory groups or panels on matters referred by other Committees.

<b><i>The Regulatory and Hearings Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:</i></b>
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## **Terms of Reference:**

3. Hear and determine any statutory or regulatory hearings under relevant legislation unless otherwise delegated by Council, including (but without limitation):
  - objections under the Dog Control Act 1996; *\*see special note*
  - matters regarding drainage and works on private land under the Local Government Act 1974 and Local Government Act 2002;
  - proposals for temporary closure of any road. *\*see special note*
4. Consider and determine traffic and speed limit related matters, including those detailed in the Traffic Bylaw and Speed Management Plan, including hearing any submissions relating to those proposed changes. *\*see special note*
5. Hear and determine matters arising under current bylaws and policies, including applications for dispensation from compliance with the requirements of bylaws or policies, unless such matters are otherwise delegated by Council.
6. Hear and determine other matters that require hearings or submissions, as referred by Council or other Committees.

## **The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:**

- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.
- Approval of the establishment of hearings panels and their terms of reference.

## **The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:**

- The Committee may make recommendations to the Council.
- The Committee may make recommendations to Committees.

## **Special Notes:**

- The Committee may request expert advice through the Chief Executive when necessary.
- The Committee may appoint additional members for hearings where the relevant terms of reference specify the requirement for expert or external representation.
- The following Hearings Panels have been established:
  - Dog Control Hearings Panel
  - Traffic, Speed Limit and Road Closure Hearings Panel

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**1 Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

# Council Report

Item 4

**Committee:** Regulatory and Hearings Committee

**Date:** 04 December 2024

**Author:** Ash Rawiri

**Authoriser:** Michelle Hawthorne

**Position:** Governance Advisor

**Position:** Governance and Assurance Manager

**Report Name:** Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Open Minutes 21 March 2024

<b>Report Status</b>	<i>Open</i>
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## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2024 as a true and correct record.

## Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Regulatory and Hearings Committee Open Minutes 21 March 2024..



Regulatory and Hearings Committee  
*Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa*  
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee held in Council Chamber and Audio-Visual Link , Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 21 March 2024 at 9:31 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Mark Donovan  
*Heamana*  
Deputy Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson  
*Heamana Tuarua*  
Members Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary  
Cr Maxine van Oosten  
Cr Louise Hutt  
Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
Cr Melaina Huaki (Via Audio-Visual)  
Cr Geoff Taylor  
Cr Andrew Bydder

In Attendance: Tania Hermann – Unit Director Resource Recovery & Sustainability  
Michelle Hawthorne – Governance & Assurance Manager  
Greg Morton – Policy Bylaw Lead  
Raewyn Simpson – Senior Planner, Infrastructure Operations

Governance Team: Arnold Andrews and Keryn Phillips – Governance Advisors  
Corey Bruntlett – Governance & Elected Member Support Coordinator  
Charlotte Mitchell – Governance and Assurance Graduate

1. **Apologies – *Tono aroha***  
**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)  
That the apologies for absence from Cr Tauariki and partial attendance from Crs Huaki, Casey-Cox, Hutt and Macindoe are accepted.
2. **Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***  
**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr van Oosten)  
The Committee to confirms the agenda
3. **Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***  
Cr Hutt declared an interest in a submission in Item 6 *Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy 2024-2030 Engagement Report*. She noted that she was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion on the matter.
- Cr Macindoe declared an interest in a submission in Item 7 *Ashurst Park Reclassification (Sportdrome Option) Hearings Report*. He noted that he was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion on the matter.

**4. Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Open Minutes of 20 September 2023**

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2023 as a true and correct record.

**5. Water Supply Bylaw Review - Engagement Report**

Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the use of plain English in the Bylaw and the Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to look into the use Plain English in the Water Supply Bylaw.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers submissions to the draft Water Supply Bylaw; and
- c) notes that the Deliberations Report will be considered at the 2 May 2024 Infrastructure and Transport Committee.

**6. Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy 2024-2030 Engagement Report**

[Jo Wrigley](#) (Waikato Environment Centre Trust) spoke in support of the proposed strategy noting that the Trust encouraged the Council to embrace the zero waste initiative using community-led hubs and move away from the use of landfills.

[Jane Landman](#) (Waimarie: Hamilton East Community House) spoke in support of the proposed strategy noting that the strategy needed more specific and diverse actions to discourage high landfill users and encourage alternative waste streams.

[Michelle Howie](#) (Xtreme Zero Waste Ltd) (via audio-visual) spoke in support of the proposed strategy and talked about the Zero Waste initiative and how it could be successfully implemented in Hamilton using Resource Recovery Centres and education.

[Robin Johnson](#) spoke against the proposed strategy noting that strategy did not address the direction the council wanted to go and that private organisations that recycle and reuse product were not taken into account.

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers submissions to the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy Rautaki Whakataaharahara Para 2024-30; and
- c) notes that the Deliberations and adoption report will be considered at the 2 May 2024 Infrastructure and Transport Committee.

**The meeting was adjourned during the above item from 10.02am to 10.21am**

*Cr Macindoe left the meeting during the adjournment and re-joined the meeting (10.31am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.*

*Cr Huaki retired from the meeting (10.02am) during the adjournment. She was not present when the matter was voted on.*

Regulatory and Hearings Committee 21 MARCH 2024 - OPEN

**7. Ashurst Park Reclassification (Sportsdrome Option) Hearings Report**

[Melissa Smith](#) (via Audio-Visual) spoke against the proposed reclassification as the proposed location was not easily accessible, doesn't encourage micro mobility and is not fit for purpose.

[Gordon Speirs](#) spoke against the proposed reclassification noting that the location was not fit for purpose and would be better redeveloped into a recreation and sport facility to complement the use of the park.

[Scott Tiffany](#) (Pukete Neighbourhood House) spoke in support of the proposed reclassification noting that the proposed location addressed all concerns raised by residents about the previous location and received greater support.

[Martin Gallagher](#) (via Audio-Visual) spoke in support of the proposed reclassification noting there was an advantage to have the Pukete Neighbourhood House attached to the sports complex in the park.

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers submissions to the reclassify a section of Ashurst Park near the Sportsdrome; and
- c) notes that a deliberations and decision report will be brought to the 9 April 2024 Community and Natural Environments Committee.

*Cr Casey-Cox and Cr Hutt retired from the meeting (10.41am) during the above item. They were not present when the matter was voted on.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 10.59am.**



# Council Report

Item 5

**Committee:** Regulatory and Hearings Committee

**Date:** 04 December 2024

**Author:** Narelle Waite

**Authoriser:** Helen Paki

**Position:** Strategy and Policy Advisor

**Position:** General Manager Customer and Community

**Report Name:** Animal and Dog Control review programme - Hearings Report

<b>Report Status</b>	Open
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## Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Regulatory and Hearings Committee on submissions received during public consultation for the Animal Nuisance Bylaw 2013, Dog Control Bylaw 201, and Dog Control Policy

## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Hearings and Engagement Committee:
  - a) receives the report;
  - b) hears and considers public submissions arising from the public consultation undertaken from 18 September - 18 October 2024; and
  - c) notes that a Deliberations and Adoption Report that includes feedback from the consultation and hearings will be brought to the 18 February 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee.

## Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Council held public consultation on proposed amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw 2013, Dog Control Bylaw 2015 and Dog Control Policy, as required by legislation.
4. Consultation proposed to retain both bylaws and the policy, with minor amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, and moderate amendments to the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.
5. Members approved the draft bylaws, draft policy and draft statement of proposal for the purpose of consultation at the [10 September 2024 Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting](#).
6. Consultation was undertaken from 18 September - 18 October 2024 and 302 submissions were received from individuals, and six from organisations.
7. Responses on each of the five key proposals indicated general community support for each of the proposed amendments.
8. All responses can be viewed here <https://hamilton.govt.nz/animalanddogresponses>

9. 21 submitters have indicated they would like to provide a verbal submission to the Regulatory and Hearings Committee.
10. Following this Hearings a Deliberations and Adoption report will be presented to the 18 February 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee.
11. Staff consider the decisions in this report have low significance and that the recommendations comply with Council's legal requirements.

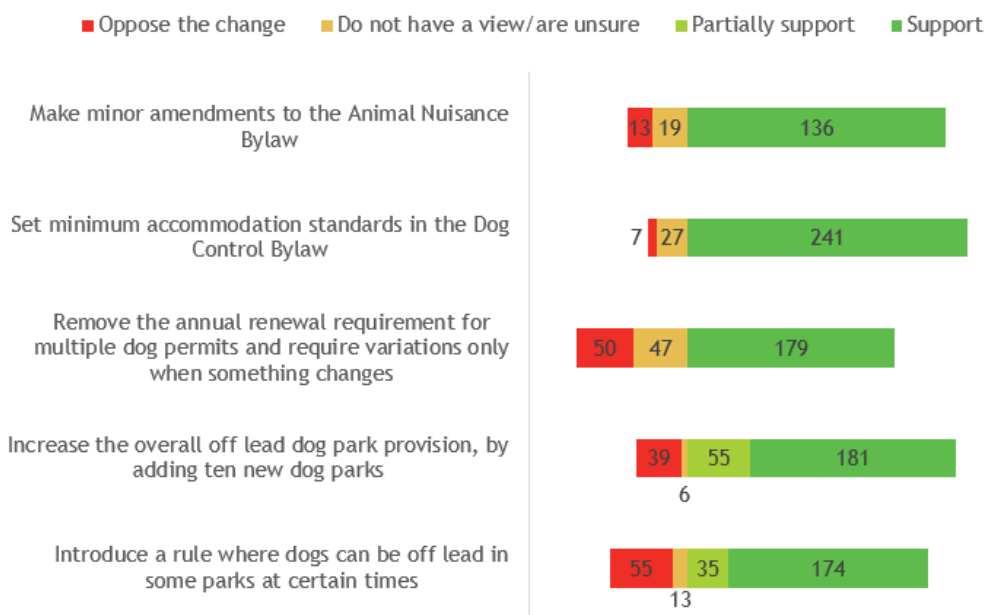
### **Background - *Koorero whaimaarama***

12. Council first adopted an Animal Nuisance Bylaw in 2008, Dog Control Policy in 1997, and the Dog Control Bylaw in 2004.
13. The purpose of Council's Animal Nuisance Bylaw is to regulate the keeping of animals (excluding dogs) within Hamilton City to protect the public from nuisance and maintain public health and safety.
14. Council is required by the Dog Control Act 1996 to adopt a policy on dogs. The purpose of the Dog Control Policy is to facilitate responsible dog ownership within the community and respond when dog owners do not meet their responsibilities.
15. The Dog Control Bylaw gives effect to the Dog Control Policy by allowing for infringement notices and fines.
16. A determination report was brought to the 26 October 2023 Community and Natural Environment Committee. The Committee resolved that the two bylaws were the most appropriate mechanisms for:
  - i. addressing issues relating to the protection and maintenance of public health and safety, and regulating the keeping of animals; and
  - ii. addressing issues of public safety relating to dog control, and for giving effect to the Dog Control Policy.
17. Council has undertaken a review of the Animal Nuisance Bylaw 2013, Dog Control Bylaw 2015 and Dog Control Policy as required by legislation (s159 LGA, s10 DCA)
18. The [10 September 2024 Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting](#) approved the proposal for public consultation on the proposed amendments to the two bylaws and one policy.
19. Public consultation was undertaken from 18 September - 18 October 2024 to hear feedback on the proposed drafts.

### **Discussion - *Matapaki***

20. Consultation proposed to retain all documents but proposed minor amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, and broader amendments to the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. All submissions can be read here <https://hamilton.govt.nz/animalanddogresponses>
21. Respondents were given the option to leave feedback on the proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy, or both. Most respondents (n = 165) opted to provide feedback on both, 127 only gave feedback on the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw, and 9 only gave feedback on the Animal Nuisance Bylaw.
22. Support for the proposed changes was favourable as indicated by the responses to the five questions posed.

### Support for proposed changes



23. Most submitters identified as pet owners. Those who have never owned dogs tended to be less supportive of the proposed amendments than dog owners; however, support for the changes remained favourable even amongst non-dog owners.

#### Animal Nuisance

24. Consultation proposed minor amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw to make the document more accessible and improve its accuracy.
25. 174 submissions were received for the Animal Nuisance Bylaw review.
26. Submitters were asked whether they agreed with the proposal to make only minor amendments. 81% of submitters supported the proposal, 8% were opposed, and 11% did not have a view.
27. Comment on the Animal Nuisance Bylaw question included feedback about Dogs. This feedback is out of scope of the Animal Nuisance Bylaw but will be taken into consideration for the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw amendments.

#### Dog Control

28. Consultation proposed moderate amendments to the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. The key changes were:
- i. removing the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits;
  - ii. increasing the overall provision of off lead dog exercise areas; and
  - iii. and adding a minimum standard for the housing of dogs.

29. 292 submissions were received for the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw review.

#### Minimum accommodation standards

30. Submitters were asked whether they agreed with the proposal to set minimum accommodation standards for dogs into the Bylaw. 88% of submitters supported the proposal, 2% were opposed, and 10% did not have a view or were unsure.

31. Submitters who opposed this proposal or did not have a view often indicated a misunderstanding of the proposal. With 4 out of the 7 who opposed the proposal indicating they did not support requiring kennels, however, the new accommodation rule states '*a kennel or place of confinement*' must meet certain the accommodation requirements. For example, a dog living indoors would meet these requirements.

***Removing the annual renewal for Multiple Dog Permits***

32. Submitters were asked whether they agreed with the proposal to remove the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits. The proposed change to the Bylaw would instead require variations to a permit as needed (i.e., adding a new dog). 65% of submitters supported the proposal, 18% were opposed, and 17% did not have a view or were unsure.
33. The most common concern for the removal of the annual renewal requirement was that additional dogs would be harder to track through this process as it requires self-reporting. However, existing staff processes currently manage the requirements for new permits or variations and would continue to under the current proposal.

***Off lead dog exercise and Prohibited areas***

34. Council must identify in the Bylaw and Policy rules and locations of public places where dogs are required to be on lead, are prohibited, or can be off lead. Staff proposed changes to the current provision of dog parks as part of the review programme.
35. Staff considered changes to off lead and prohibited areas in-line with existing best practice, and proposed amendments to existing dog off lead areas, new off lead areas, and one new prohibited area based on the current park usage and the current registered dog population.
36. Due to the requirement to identify these locations in the Policy and Bylaw, these changes were also consulted with the public during this public consultation process.
37. Submitters were asked two questions on the off lead dog exercise areas.
38. Submitters were asked whether they agreed with the proposal to increase the overall provision of dog parks. 64% of submitters supported the proposal, 20% partially supported, 14% were opposed, and 2% did not have a view.
39. Submitters were also asked whether they agreed with the proposal to introduce Off lead dog exercise areas (specified times), which would have some parks available for off lead exercise of dogs at certain times of the day. Of the 8 locations proposed in this category, 4 were new parks proposed for addition, and 4 were existing off lead areas proposed for reduction in available use.
40. 63% of submitters supported the proposal, 12% partially supported, 20% opposed, 5% did not have a view.
41. Few submitters who indicated non-support or partial support for the dog park proposals indicated feedback on specific locations, and instead indicated they did not support dog parks in general. Where submitters have referenced a specific location, a table of park-specific feedback is available as an appendix to the insights report (attachment).
42. The identification of off lead areas and prohibited areas does not include how these areas are managed. Feedback which references infrastructure to support the access area rules (like fenced dog parks, waste bins etc.) are out of scope of this review but is important feedback from the community for consideration in future parks planning.

## Options

43. No options are available for the Committee to consider, verbal submissions are an essential part of consultation required by legislation. Options will be presented to Members at the next stage in the process.
44. Following this Regulatory and Hearings meeting which considers all submissions including verbal submission presented to the Committee, a Deliberations and Adoption report will be prepared by staff and presented to the 18 February 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee.

## Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

45. The reviews are regular operating activities funded through the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.
46. The costs incurred to date, costs associated with the consultation, and costs to finalise the review are within the estimated costings of \$45,000. These costings include staff hours to progress review (200-250 hours), engagement and consultation costs (\$7,900), which include contractor costs, design, public notice and media placements, mailout, and printing.

## Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

47. Staff confirm that the matters in this report comply with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

## Climate Change Impact Statement

48. Staff have assessed this option against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation. Staff have determined no adaptation assessment or emissions assessment is required.

## Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

49. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
50. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
51. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

## Social

52. This programme of review is an opportunity to ensure Council best supports the social wellbeing of Hamiltonians by ensuring individuals, family, and whaanau can safely care for animals including dogs.
53. The Dog Control review will assess the equitable access to public spaces for dogs and their owners to provide for a sense of belonging and social inclusion that builds strength within community networks.
54. The review will also account for the rights of the Community to feel safe in public spaces without fear of attack, intimidation or nuisance caused by animals.

## Economic

55. Review of the Bylaws will provide opportunity for the community to provide feedback on fees and other costs that can be taken into consideration.

## Environmental

- 56. Safe keeping of Animals contributes to environmental wellbeing by ensuring that animals are not causing nuisance or disruption to Hamilton's natural environment.
- 57. Adjacent to the Dog Control policy and bylaw review, staff have identified updates to the Off Lead Dog Exercise and Prohibited Areas Register, these areas, having considered the appropriateness of the environment and alignment with our existing reserve plans and strategies.

## Cultural

- 58. Differing customs, values and beliefs will determine varied perceptions of animals within Hamilton's communities. The animal and dog review programme of work will seek to recognise the value of animals within the community with an appreciation for the inherent differences in cultural significance of animals.
- 59. A review of the Bylaws provides an opportunity for alignment with He Pou Manawa Ora, and staff have sought input from Council's Maaori partners through the drafting process and the consultation.

## Risks - *Tuuraru*

- 60. There are no known risks associated with the decisions presented for this matter.

## Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui*

- 61. Given the statutory requirement to consult, staff have not considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy to assess the significance of recommendation(s) in this report.
- 62. There is a statutory requirement to consult as per legislation outlined below.
- 63. [Sections 156](#) of the Local Government Act 2002 and [Section 10](#) of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides direction on the level of public engagement required throughout the review process. Having assessed the requirements under the acts, staff consulted in line with section 83, 83A, and 86 of the LGA 2002, as approved by the [10 September 2024 Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting](#).
- 64. A summary of the engagement approach is provided in the Submissions Insights Report (**Attachment 1**).

## Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

- Attachment 1 - Community engagement tactics and insights report - Animal Nuisance and Dog Control review programme.



# **ANIMAL NUISANCE BYLAW, DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND DOG CONTROL POLICY REVIEW: SUBMISSIONS INSIGHTS REPORT**

Report prepared by:  
Piper Shields, Research and Insights Advisor  
Kylee Boswell, Communication and Engagement Advisor  
Communication and Engagement  
Partnerships, Communication and Maaori  
November 2024

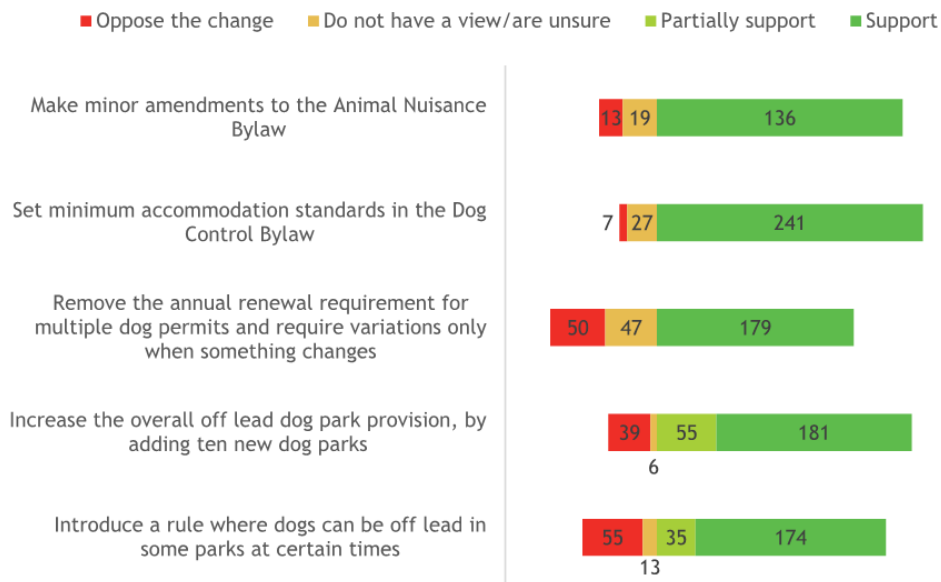
Report reviewed by:  
Dan Silverton, Communication and Engagement Manager  
Communication and Engagement  
Partnerships, Communication and Maaori

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is reviewing the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. As a part of this review, Council consulted with the community on proposed changes to these documents. This consultation occurred from 18 September to 18 October, and received 302 unique submissions from individuals, and six submissions from organisations.

Respondents were asked five quantitative questions regarding their support or opposition to the proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. The final two questions regarded part time and full time dog park provision offered an additional option, for those who partially supported the proposal but had comments relating to the parks impacted.

### Support for proposed changes



While each proposed change received far more support than opposition at a surface level, comments tended to be more nuanced.



## SUBMISSIONS INSIGHTS

### INTRODUCTION

Council is reviewing the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. As a part of this review, Council consulted with the community on proposed changes to these documents.

The Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy outline rules and guidelines for the keeping of animals, bees and poultry in Hamilton. Council is required by legislation to review the bylaws and policy, and it's a great opportunity to check in with the community to make sure they are working well and consider any feedback on the proposed changes. The Animal Nuisance Bylaw was last reviewed in 2013, while the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy was last reviewed in 2015.

The community was consulted on the proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw from 18 September to 18 October 2024. We received a total of 319 online survey submissions, seven hardcopy submissions, seven emailed submissions and one phone submission. After condensing duplicate submissions, we had a final total of 302 unique responses from individuals and six unique responses from organisations.

### FEEDBACK THROUGH SUBMISSION FORMS

#### *Individual Responses*

##### **About the respondents**

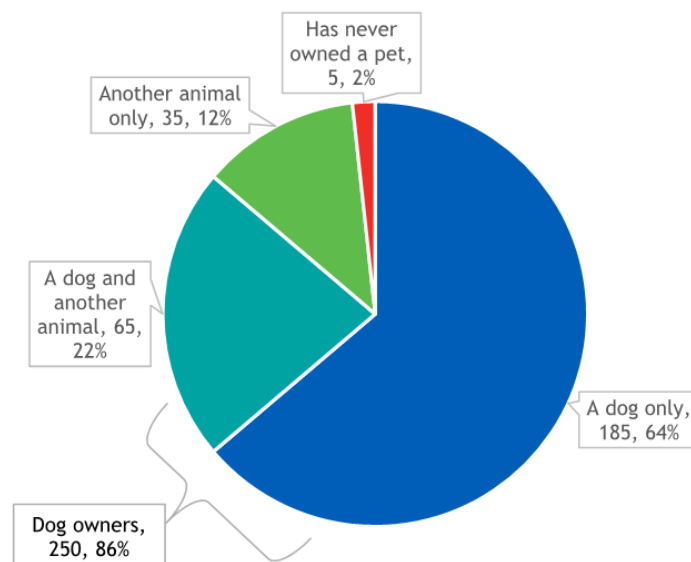
We asked respondents about their pet ownership experience. Respondents could indicate whether they have ever owned a dog, another kind of animal, both, or have never owned a pet.

Nearly all respondents (98%, 296 of 302) currently own, or have previously owned, a pet.

- 185 have experience only owning a dog
- 35 have experience owning animals, but no experience owning dogs
- 65 have experience owning both a dog and another kind of animal
- 5 have never owned any kind of pet

Across these four groups, 250 respondents have at least some experience owning a dog.

Pet ownership experience of respondents



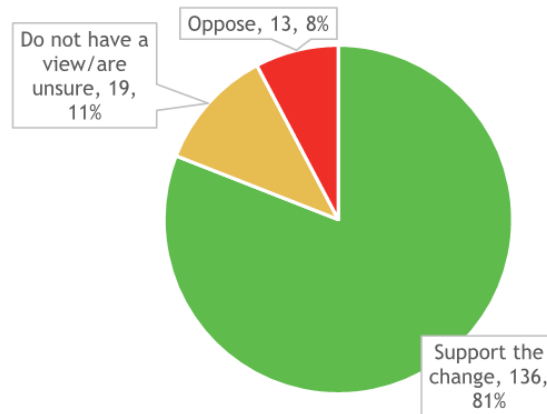
Respondents were given the option to leave feedback on the proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy, or both. Most respondents (n = 165) opted to provide feedback on both, 127 only gave feedback on the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw, and 9 only gave feedback on the Animal Nuisance Bylaw.

#### Animal Nuisance Bylaw

Council proposed to simplify the language of the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, to make the document more accessible and improve its accuracy. These amendments also intend to clarify that residents must house animals on private property only.

There was considerable support for Council's proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw. Overall, 81% (136 of 168) of respondents who answered this question were supportive of the proposed changes. 8% (n = 13) were opposed.

### We are proposing to make only minor amendments to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw



45 respondents expanded on their answers. The most common themes from their responses were (themes received one comment unless specified):

- Supportive of the proposals (12 comments)
- Complaint about a specific negative experience/interaction with animal (11 comments)
- Comment on housing (10 comments)
  - Supportive of this proposal (4 comments)
  - Should add regulations to prevent excessive tethering/chaining of animals (3 comments)
  - Concerns/confusion about animals being housed on public property (3 comments)
  - My dog won't sleep in a kennel
  - Property should be escape-proof for dogs
  - How will this proposal affect tenants
  - Housing should meet the specific needs of the dog's breed
- Need tougher penalties/more enforcement (7 comments)
- Concerned for cat control (5 comments)
  - Supportive of/wants more cat desexing and microchipping (3 comments)
  - Cats as nuisance/pests (2 comments)
  - Want an educational/gentle approach to cat control
- Suggestions to add to the Animal Control Bylaw (5 comments)
  - More education/programmes around dog ownership (2 comments)
  - Should recognise SPCA's "5 freedoms"
  - Three strikes policy for enforcement
  - Nuisance should be an offence if it lasts a cumulative 30 minutes
- Comment regarding off-leash dog areas (5 comments)
  - Against dogs being off-leash (2 comments)
  - Dogs off-leash should be restricted to certain areas of parks, away from pedestrians (2 comments)
  - Supportive of dogs being off-leash (2 comments)

### Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy

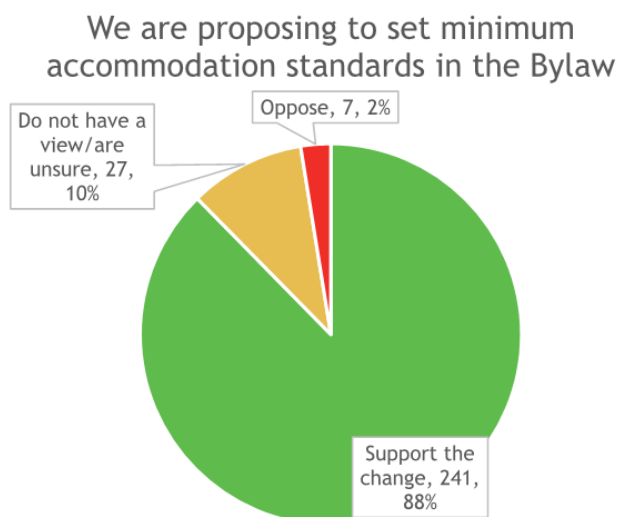
Council's proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy were more sweeping. The proposed changes were:

- To set minimum accommodation standards in the Bylaw. These standards require kennels (or similar housing) to be the right size, in the right location, clean and protected from the elements.
- To remove the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits and instead require variations only when something changes (like adding a new dog).
- To increase the overall off lead dog park provision, by adding ten new dog parks.
- To introduce a rule where dogs can be off lead in some parks at certain times. This would mean eight parks in Hamilton will allow dogs to be off lead between certain hours.

Respondents could indicate whether they supported or opposed the proposed change. For the final two proposed changes, respondents could also select that they partially supported the proposals but had comments relating to the parks impacted. After answering these four questions, respondents were invited to leave a comment expanding on any of their answers given above. Respondents could also elaborate on their answers if they indicated they partially supported a proposal but took issue with the parks impacted.

Those who have never owned dogs tended to be less supportive of these proposals than dog owners; however, support equalled or outweighed opposition across all proposals for both dog owners and those who have never owned dogs.

Respondents were generally supportive of the proposed minimum accommodation standards in the bylaw. There was no notable difference in response by dog ownership status.



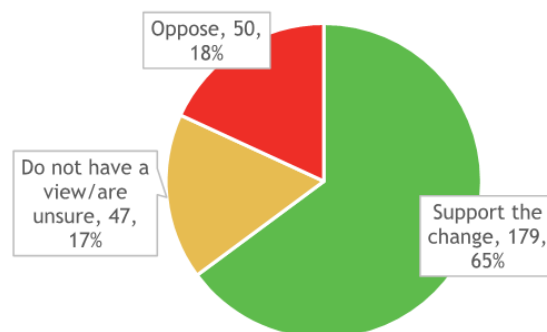
18 submitters left comments relating to the proposed changes to the accommodation standards for dogs. The most common themes from these comments were:

- Supportive of proposal (9 comments)
- Concern for kennel rule (5 comments)
  - The most common concern was that respondents' dogs slept indoors, and therefore would not need/use a kennel

- Should expand the minimum standards to include safe, secure outdoor areas (2 comments)

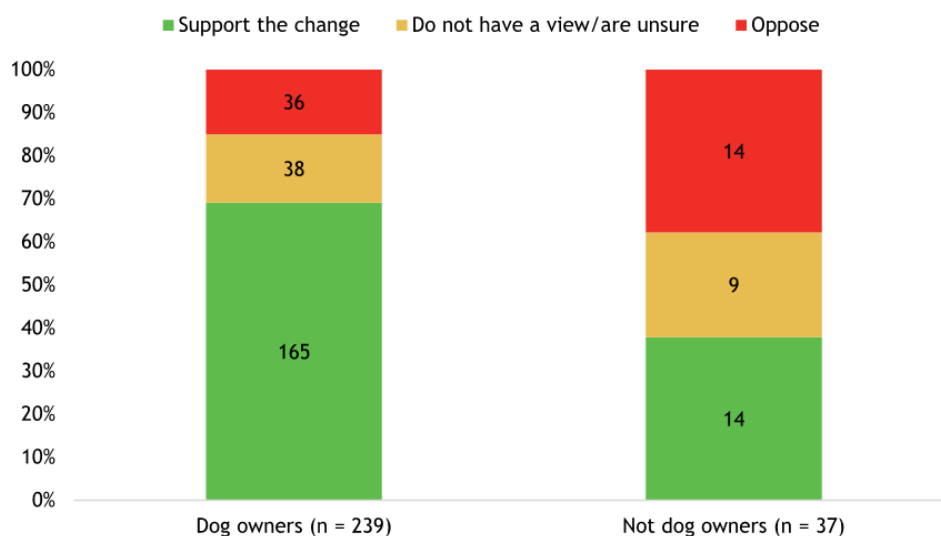
The proposed changes to multiple dog permits were more controversial; even so, two-thirds of respondents (65%) were supportive of the proposal.

We are proposing to remove the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits and instead require variations only when something changes



Respondents who have not owned a dog tended to be less supportive than dog owners. While 165 of 239 dog owners (69%) supported the proposed removal of the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits, only 14 of 37 of those who have never owned dogs (38%) were supportive.

We are proposing to remove the annual renewal requirement for multiple dog permits

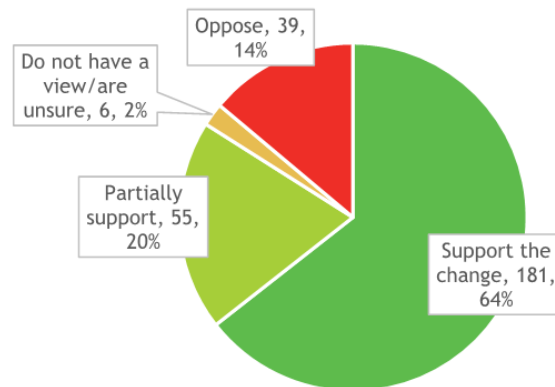


11 left comments relating to the proposed changes to multiple dog permits or dog ownership more generally. The themes from these comments were:

- Against removal of annual renewal requirements (5 comments)
  - The most common concern was that dog numbers/ownership would be harder track
- Suggestions for changes to dog permits (5 comments)
  - Limitations on number of dogs owned should exclude breeders for the first 16 weeks of a puppy's life
  - Implement a dog breeding license, with regular check-ins
  - Should require vaccination as a part of permitting/registration
  - Should not require sign-off from neighbours
  - The online permitting process should be simpler/use auto-fill
- Support the removal of annual renewal requirements for multiple dog permits (3 comments)
  - One commentor was supportive so long as the fees charged would be less than the cumulative annual fee

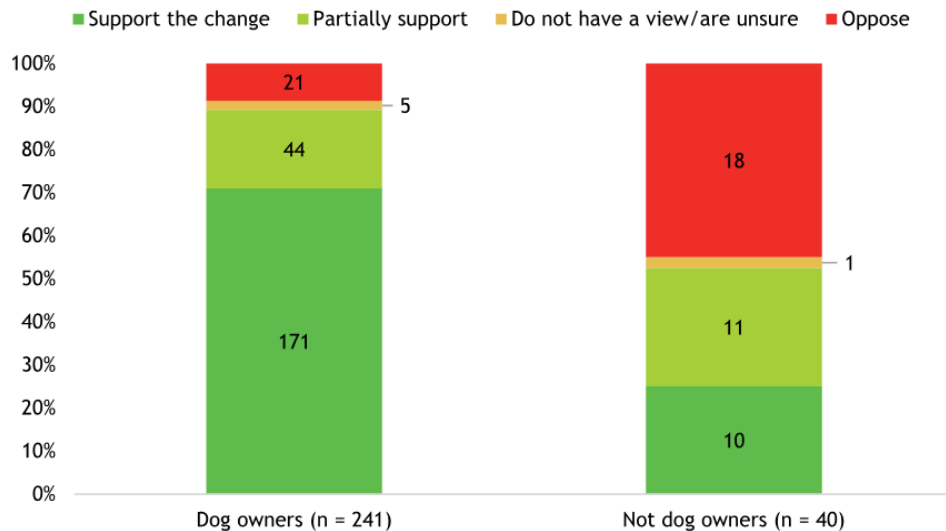
84% of respondents supported or partially supported the proposed changes to introduce ten new dog parks.

We are proposing to increase the overall off lead dog park provision, by adding ten new dog parks



Those who have not owned dogs were less likely to agree with the proposal; 21 of 40 respondents who do not own dogs (53%) supported or partially supported the proposal, and 18 (45%) opposed. Meanwhile, dog owners were more agreeable with this proposal, with 215 of 241 (89%) supporting or partially supporting the proposed new dog parks.

## We are proposing to increase the overall off lead dog park provision, by adding ten new dog parks

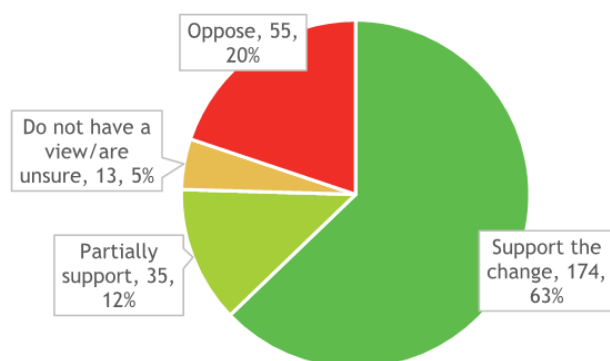


122 left comments relating to the proposed changes to off lead dog park provision. The most common themes from these comments were:

- Against off lead dog parks/opposition to the proposal (41 comments)
- Desire more fenced/enclosed dog spaces (32 comments)
- Supportive of the change (27 comments)
- Suggestions (25 comments)
  - The most common suggestions were to increase the provision of bins/poo bag dispensers in dog parks and to create separate park spaces for small and large dogs
- Concern for problematic off lead dogs (15 comments)
- Need signage/awareness of where the dog parks are/etiquette/any changes (12 comments)
- The need for more enforcement (9 comments)
- Ten dog parks are a lot/too many (6 comments)

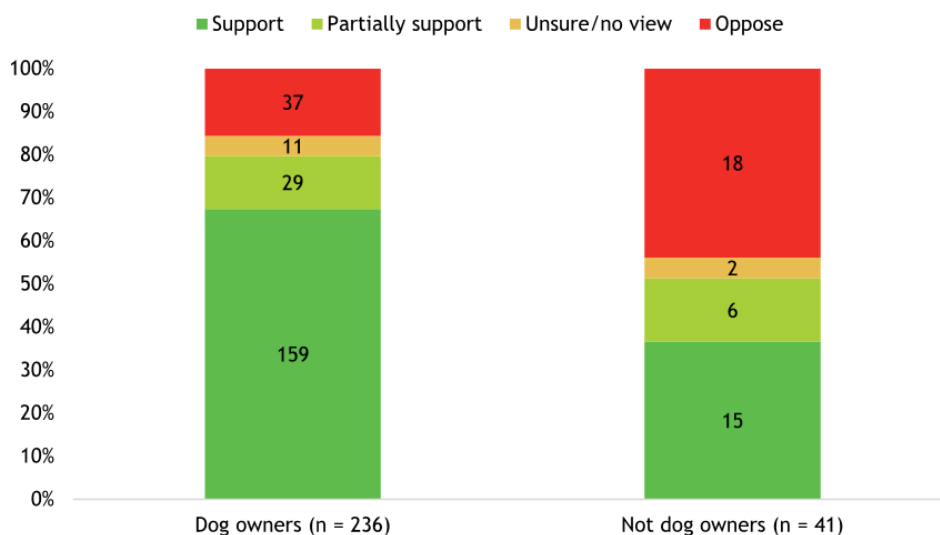
Three-quarters of respondents (75%) were supportive or partially supportive of the proposed change to timed off-lead dog parks.

We are proposing to introduce a rule where dogs can be off lead in some parks at certain times



Again, those who have not owned dogs were less likely to support the proposed change to timeshare parks. 21 of 41 respondents who do not own dogs (51%) were supportive or partially supportive of the proposal, c.f. 188 of 236 dog owners (80%).

We are proposing to introduce a rule where dogs can be off lead in some parks at certain times



74 left comments relating to the proposed changes to timed off lead dog parks. The most common themes from these comments were:

- Against timeshare parks/opposition to the proposal (22 comments)
- Support for the proposal (15 comments)
- Suggestions (15 comments)



- The most common suggestion was to implement workshops/education campaigns about responsible dog ownership and etiquette
- Concern for rulebreakers/enforcement of timings (14 comments)
- There needs to be signs/awareness of timings (13 comments)
- Concern for timings/suggestions for alternate times (13 comments)

58 left other comments, not directly related to a proposed change to the Dog Control Bylaw or Dog Control Policy. The most common themes from these comments were:

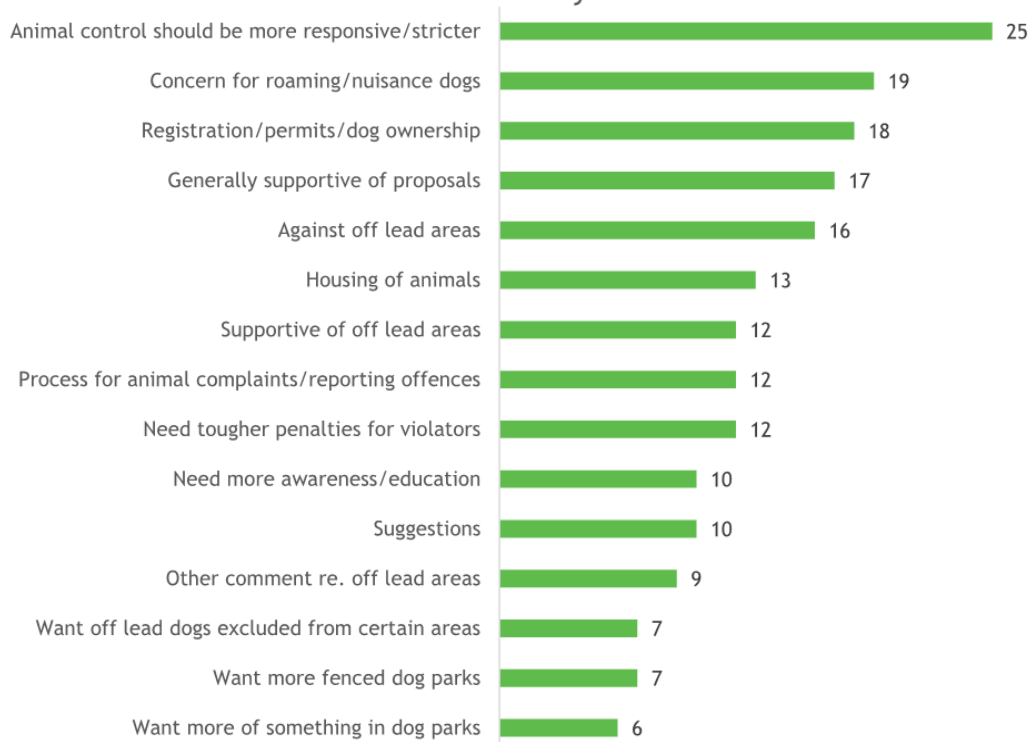
- The need for enforcement/concern people will not follow proposed changes (26 comments)
- Suggestions (20 comments)
  - The most common suggestions were to subsidise/provide training and education on responsible dog ownership, increase the provision of dog poo bags/bins, and create separate park spaces for small and large dogs.
- Supportive of all the proposals/in general (14 comments)

*Note that any feedback from these or other comments relating to a specific park have been summarised in Appendix A: Mentions of specific parks.*

#### **Final thoughts**

Finally, we invited respondents to leave any other comments relating to Council's Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, or Dog Control Policy. The most common themes have been summarised in the graph below.

### Do you have any other comments relating to Council's Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, or Dog Control Policy?



*Note that any feedback from these or other comments relating to a specific park have been summarised in Appendix A: Mentions of specific parks below.*

#### APPENDIX A: Mentions of specific parks

69 respondents named a specific park in their feedback. Their thoughts have been themed and summarised in the table below. Note that themes received one comment unless specified, and multiple similar comments on the same park by a single submitter have been recorded as one comment. Parks have been organised in order of number of mentions.

Park name	Number of mentions	Feedback
Mangaiti Park	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off lead dogs here (6 comments)</li> <li>Love this park (3 comments)</li> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area only at specified times</li> <li>Should fence off the playground and gully to prevent dog access</li> </ul>
Minogue Park	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Love the fenced area, more parks should have one (6 comments)</li> <li>Sometimes conflicts/issues in the fenced area (2 comments)</li> <li>Would like the fence area enlarged</li> <li>Dog attack occurred here</li> <li>Concern for reduced walking space due to replanting efforts</li> </ul>

Raymond Park	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off lead dogs here (4 comments)</li> <li>Dog fights/attacks often happen here (4 comments)</li> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off lead dog exercise area at specified times</li> </ul>
Hare Puke Park	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off lead dogs here (6 comments)</li> <li>Supportive of proposed change to an off-lead dog exercise area at specified times</li> <li>Change timings of off-lead dogs, so all dogs are on lead by 2pm for school traffic</li> </ul>
Days Park	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Love this park (4 comments)</li> <li>Off-lead dogs here can be aggressive</li> <li>Dog attacks happen here</li> <li>Access path should be metalled for easy winter access</li> </ul>
Hillcrest Park	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here (3 comments)</li> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area at specified times</li> <li>Dog exercise area needs to be larger and fenced</li> <li>Timings are too restrictive for dog walkers</li> </ul>
Hamilton Gardens	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here, due to pedestrian traffic</li> <li>Hillside Lawn - should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times, not specified times</li> <li>Too close to entry road and poison traps</li> <li>Needs clearer signs for off-lead areas</li> <li>Concern for people parking vehicles in the park</li> </ul>
Hamilton Lake Domain	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here (4 comments)</li> <li>Add rule where off-lead dogs are excluded during public events</li> </ul>
Derek Heather Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area at certain times</li> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here</li> <li>Timings are too restrictive for dog walkers</li> <li>Currently a lot of dogs off-lead here</li> </ul>
Innes Common	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs across whole park</li> <li>East area should be on-lead dogs only (2 comments)</li> <li>Only south-west area should be an off-lead dog exercise area at specified times</li> </ul>
Moonlight Drive Reserve	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here (4 comments)</li> </ul>
Te Kootii Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times, not only specified times</li> <li>Off-lead dog exercise area should be more clearly marked</li> <li>Off-lead dog exercise area should be outside the cricket oval, to make it clearer</li> <li>Love this park</li> </ul>
Eden Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area at all times</li> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here</li> </ul>
Featherstone Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Want to see an off-lead dog exercise area here</li> <li>Great for dog owners</li> </ul>
Greensboro Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area</li> </ul>

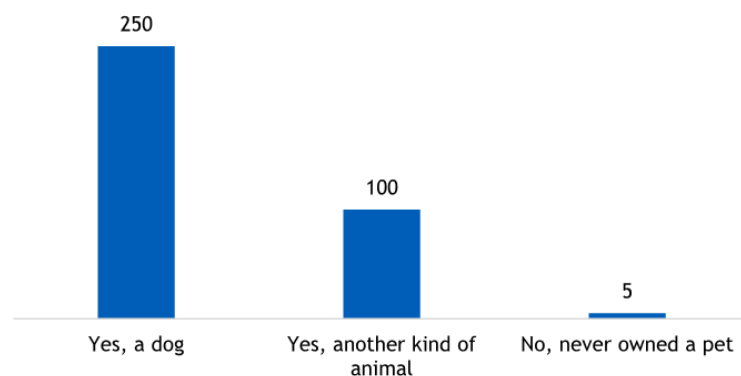
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at all times</li> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here, due to smelliness, noise and busyness</li> <li>Currently a lot of dogs off-lead here where there shouldn't be</li> </ul>
Rakautahi Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area at all times (2 comments)</li> <li>Fence needs to be repaired here</li> </ul>
Te Manatu Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times</li> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here</li> </ul>
Chelmsford Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should no longer be an off-lead dog exercise area</li> </ul>
Claudlands Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern for people parking vehicles in the park</li> </ul>
Derby Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive of proposed change to off-lead dog exercise area at all times</li> <li>Currently a lot of dogs off-lead here where there shouldn't be</li> </ul>
Discovery Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs more policing/enforcement here</li> </ul>
Farrington Avenue Reserve	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Want to see an off-lead dog exercise area here</li> </ul>
Flagstaff Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs more policing/enforcement here</li> </ul>
Greenhill Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently a lot of dogs off-lead here where there shouldn't be</li> </ul>
Horotiu Dog Exercise Area (in Waikato District)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe place for dog exercise</li> </ul>
Melville Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be fenced</li> </ul>
Resthills Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times, not only specified times</li> </ul>
Sanford Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently a lot of dogs off-lead here where there shouldn't be</li> </ul>
Swarbrick Landing River Path	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times</li> </ul>
Taitua Arboretum	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like the clear signage here</li> </ul>
Tauhara Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not want off-lead dogs here</li> </ul>
Waiwhakareke Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be an off-lead dog exercise area at all times</li> </ul>

### *Demographics of individual respondents*

#### **Pet ownership**

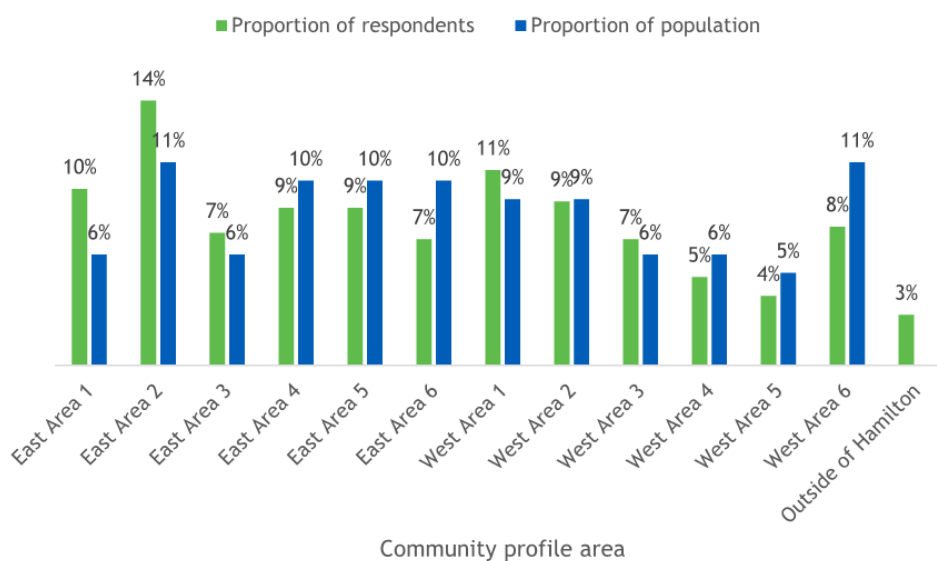
Nearly all respondents (98%, 296 of 302) currently own, or previously have owned, a pet. Of these, 250 are or have been dog owners.

Have you ever, currently or previously, owned any pets?



#### Location

#### Area Comparison

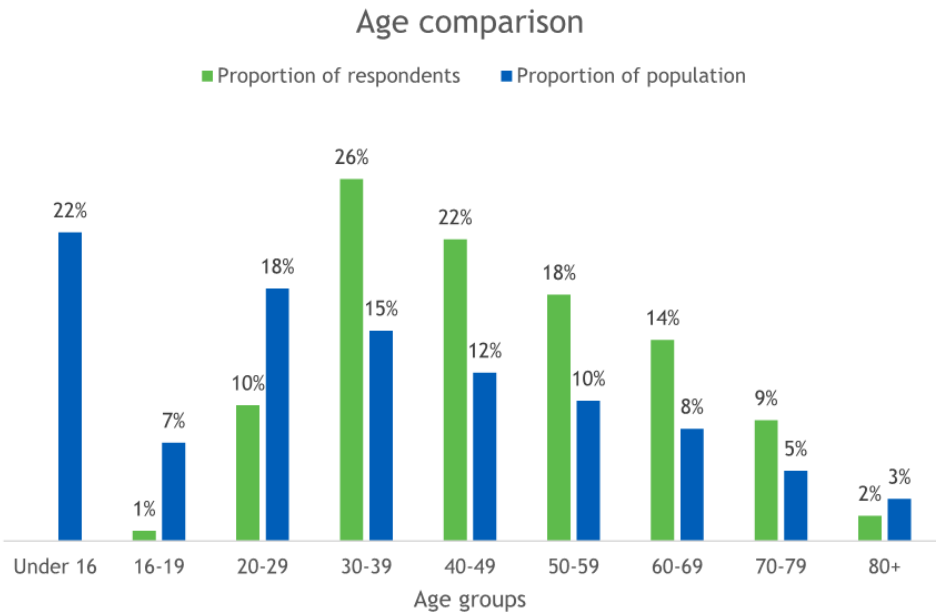


Hamilton City profile statistics are from the 2018 Census published by Stats NZ.

Community Profile Area	List of suburbs
East Area 1	Flagstaff
East Area 2	Callum Brae, Huntington, Rototuna, Rototuna North
East Area 3	Chartwell, Chedworth, Harrowfield, Queenwood
East Area 4	Enderley, Fairfield, Fairview Downs
East Area 5	Claudeland, Hamilton East, Peachgrove
East Area 6	Hillcrest, Ruakura, Riverlea, Silverdale
West Area 1	Avalon, Beerescourt, Forest Lake, Northgate, Pukete, St Andrews, Te Rapa

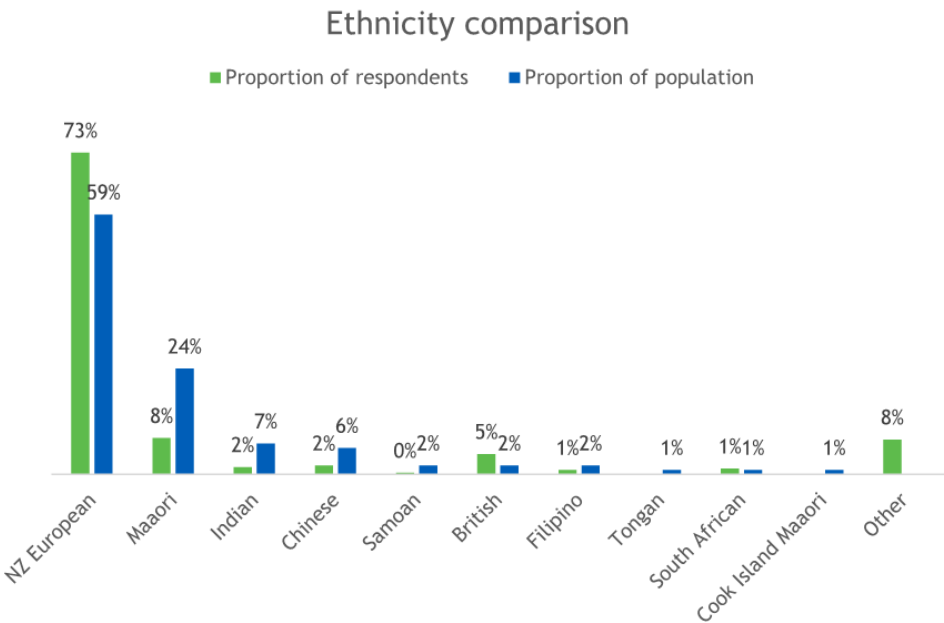
West Area 2	Crawshaw, Grandview Heights, Nawton, Rotokauri, Western Heights
West Area 3	Aberdeen, Dinsdale, Temple view
West Area 4	Frankton, Maeroa, Swarbrick
West Area 5	Hamilton Central, Hamilton Lake, Hospital, Whitiora
West Area 6	Bader, Deanwell, Fitzroy, Glenview, Melville, Peacocke

Age



Hamilton City profile statistics are from the 2018 Census published by Stats NZ.

Ethnicity



Hamilton City profile statistics are from the 2018 Census published by Stats NZ.

### *Responses from organisations*

We received submissions from six organisations. Their submission details can be found in the table below.

Name	Organisation	Feedback form
Dr Nic McDonald	Companion Animals New Zealand	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - Companion Animals New Zealand</a>
Chris Ford	Disabled Persons Assembly (NZ) Inc	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - Disabled Persons Assembly (NZ) Inc</a>
Kelsey Harper	Harpers Hounds	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - Harpers Hound</a>
Hadon Westerby	Resthills Sports Centre Incorporated	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - Resthills Sports Centre Incorporated</a>
Dr Arnja Dale	RNZSPCA	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - RNZSPCA</a>
Naadira Hassen de Medeiros	Safekids Aotearoa	<a href="#">Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw, and Dog Control Policy - Safekids Aotearoa</a>

**FEEDBACK FROM SOCIAL MEDIA**

This survey was paired with a social media campaign. The comments received on posts promoting this survey have been analysed below.

**Facebook Post #1 – posted 18 September**

This post received 15 comments. Four of these comments were the Hamilton City Council Facebook account responding to community questions and feedback. The themes from comments were:

- Should upgrade the path in Days Park (3 comments)
- Opposed to dogs being off lead (2 comments)
- Want fenced parks (2 comments)
- Has submitted their response to the survey
- Opposed to the survey entirely
- Recently witnessed non-compliant off lead dogs
- Want more bins in parks

**Facebook Post #2 – posted 3 October**

This post received two comments, which are presented here verbatim:

- *"Who's going to be available to police these changes?"*
- *"Hamilton City Council if the number of off leash areas increases will this mean more enforcement of on leash areas like Discovery and Flagstaff Parks which are sports fields as well as having children's playgrounds?"*



## ENGAGEMENT TACTICS

### GOAL

Hamiltonians are empowered to help Council shape the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw so they are fit for purpose, meets the community needs, and are easy to understand.

### OBJECTIVES

- All identified key stakeholders are communicated with before, during and after consultation.
- At least 300 people provide feedback during the consultation period.
- Proactive Council social media gets more positive community sentiment than negative.
- Customer Service receives less than five queries about the bylaws and policy and how the community can have their say.

### ENGAGEMENT OUTCOME

Council understands the community's views on proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw.

### ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN REVIEW

The campaign tactics for the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw review included:

- Two media releases
- Public notices in Waikato Times and Waikato Local
- A front-page solus ad in Waikato Local newspaper
- Promotion of the survey on social media through paid Meta advertising and organic posts
- Stakeholder emails to dog owners, park users, people who signed up for consultation notifications, and Dog Parks in Kirikiriroa Survey respondents who requested to be notified
- Letter drop to registered dog owners and residents who live near parks where changes were proposed to off-lead areas
- Signage in nine key dog parks across the city
- Posters in Council facilities and relevant external locations
- Advertising via digital screens within the Council building



## ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

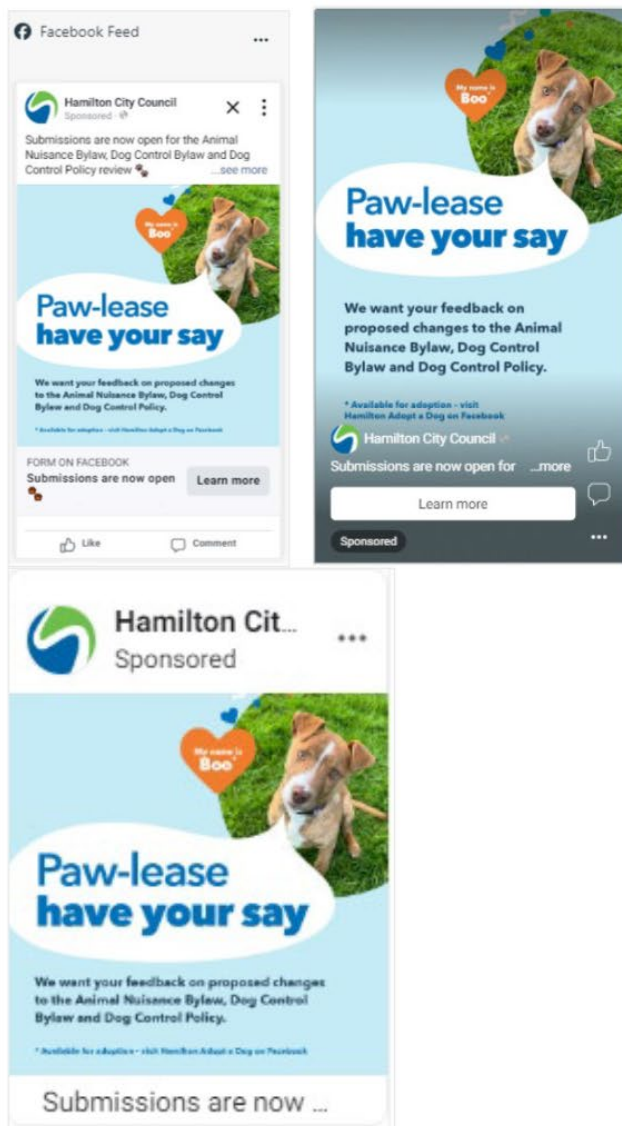
### SUBMISSION FORM (ONLINE & PAPER COPY)

We received a total of 319 online survey submissions, seven hardcopy submissions, seven emailed submissions and one phone submission. After condensing duplicate submissions, we had a final total of 302 unique responses from individuals and six unique responses from organisations.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Paid advertising ran across Meta channels (Facebook and Instagram) encouraging people to have their say. The ads produced the following results:

- Total reach: 31,203
- Impressions: 128,647
- Results: 4735 clicks
- Click through rate: 3.68%



We also shared two organic posts on the Hamilton City Council Facebook page which generated the following results.



### 18 September 2024 Facebook post:

- Impressions: 4,082
- Reach: 3,660
- Engagement: 389



### 3 October 2024 Facebook post:

- Impressions: 5,947
- Reach: 5,717
- Engagement: 209

A post about the consultation was also shared on the Hamilton Adopt a Dog Facebook page.

### MEDIA RELEASES

A media release was sent out on [18 September 2024](#) announcing that the consultation was open, and was picked up by the Waikato Times.



A second media release went out on [2 October 2024](#) specifically focussed on the proposed changes to off-lead dog exercise areas.

#### WEBSITE


The two media releases were published on the Council website, where they were viewed 214 and 229 times respectively, with people clicking through to the Have Your Say website a total of 715 times from these pages.

#### EMAILS/ LETTERS

Letters were delivered to 4899 registered dog owners who had opted to receive correspondence via this method. Letters were also sent to 393 residents whose properties bordered or were near parks where new off lead dog exercise areas were proposed.

An email was also sent to around 9159 dog owners who opted to receive correspondence via this method. The email received an open rate of 49.98% and a click-through rate of 6.61%.

Further emails were sent to Council's consultations notifications email list and respondents of the Dog Parks in Kirikiriroa Survey who had requested to be notified when consultation opened. The first email went to a database of 653 people and achieved an open rate of 41.19% and a click-through rate of 7.81%, while the second email went to 192 people and received an open rate of 50.52% and a click-through rate of 20.31%.



**Let us fetch  
your feedback**

We want your feedback on proposed changes to the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.

\* Available for adoption - visit [Hamilton Adopt a Dog on Facebook](#)

Kia ora,

From today, submissions are open for the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy review.

The bylaw and policy ensure that there are rules and guidelines in place for dog ownership in Hamilton. We are required by legislation to review these documents now, and it is a great opportunity to check in with our community to make sure they are working well and consider feedback on the proposed changes.

One of the key changes being proposed is adjusting the Off Lead and

## WHAT'S NEXT

Hearings for the Animal Nuisance Bylaw, Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy review will take place on 4 December 2024. From there, the Council will consider all the views, deliberate on the proposed changes and decide on whether to continue the bylaws with amendments, or continue with no amendments.